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Rural Information Center

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National Agricultural Library

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USDA ESTABLISHES A RURAL DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

On December 13th, 1991 President Bush signed the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Amendments Act of 1991 authorizing the implementation of the U.S. Rural Development Administration (RDA). Title XXIII of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 established the RDA to carry out specified rural development activities and such other rural development programs as the Secretary of Agriculture determines appropriate. Walter E. Hill, Deputy Under Secretary for Small Community and Rural Development has been named to serve as Acting Administrator of RDA.

The creation of the RDA is a response by the Secretary to the Nation's need to focus more attention on improving economic conditions in rural areas. RDA will enhance USDA's ability to develop and carry out long-term strategies for rural development and will help position the Department to take a stronger leadership role on rural issues. Consequently, the mission of the Rural Development Administration is to promote economic development in rural America by financing needed community facilities, assisting business development, and developing effective national strategies for rural economic development.

A framework was established for the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) to furnish services to the Rural Development Administration (RDA) in connection with

programs and functions delegated to RDA. Together, RDA and FmHA will coordinate their efforts to develop rural development strategies, to carry out rural development initiatives and programs, to maximize development in rural areas, and to assure a smooth transfer of program activities from FmHA to RDA. The transition to RDA will occur in stages over a 1-2 year period.

FmHA will provide short-term transition assistance to the RDA. FmHA will administer all programs delegated to RDA, including administrative and support services, and FmHA will provide RDA all reports necessary for RDA to fulfill its responsibilities.

Source: USDA Extension Service's *Revitalizing Rural America Alert*, Vol. 5 (1), 1992.

NEW RIC PUBLICATIONS

Agricultural and Farmer Cooperatives. Prepared by Patricia La Caille John. Updated edition. 266 citations. September 1991, 44 p.

Alternatives to Waste Disposal. Prepared by Tanya Shimmons. 141 citations. December 1991, 25 p.

Health Care in Rural America. Prepared by Patricia La Caille John. Updated edition. 352 citations. December 1991, 67 p.

Information Access in Rural America. Prepared by Patricia La Caille John. 159 citations. January 1992, 27 p.

Rural Education. Prepared by Patricia La Caille John. Updated edition. 140 citations. January 1992, 25 p.



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Tourism and Outdoor Recreation. Prepared by Patricia La Caille John. 186 citations. December 1991, 37 p.

FUTURE CONFERENCES

A National Conference on "Creating the Quality School," Norman, OK, March 30-31, April 1. Call 1-800-522-0755 (Oklahoma) or 1-800-523-7363 (out-of-state) for additional information.

Issues, Problems and Solutions for the 90's: The Third Conference on Problem Solving in Rural Areas, Austin, TX, April 1-3, 1992. Call 512-471-0534 for additional information.

Health Care Realities in Rural America, 4th Annual Rural Nursing Conference, Greeley, CO, April 3-4. Call 303-351-2293 for information.

1992 Rural Nurse Conference, Hood River, OR, April 22-24, 1992. Call 800-955-3911 for additional information.

Information and Rural Economic Development: Infrastructure, Clarion, PA, June 4-6, 1992.

Co-sponsored by Clarion University of Pennsylvania and the Rural Information Center, NAL. Call 814-226-2109 for additional information.

FY92 RURAL INFORMATION CENTER ANALYSIS

- User location
- Rural topics
- Affiliation

STATES, TERRITORIES, ETC. SUBMITTING HIGHEST NUMBER OF REQUESTS

Texas.....	8%
Maryland.....	7%
Colorado & District of Columbia (6% each)	12%
California, Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Virginia (3% each)	30%
Alaska, Florida, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, New York, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming (2% each)	24%
All others (23 states, 1 territory, 2 foreign countries)	19%

BREAKDOWN OF RURAL QUESTIONS

Health Services	41%
Economic Viability.....	34%
Quality of Life/Natural Resources	17%
Local Government Services	8%

AFFILIATION BREAKDOWN

State & County Extension Service	20%
Health Care Professionals, Organiza- tions, State and Local Health Offices, etc	16%
Individuals, Universities & Other Educational Institutions (12% each)	24%
Businesses	11%
USDA Officials	8%
Economic Development & Community Organizations	7%
Local Officials	4%
State Officials & Libraries (3% each)	6%
Federal Officials (non-USDA) & Special Interest Groups (2% each).....	4%